

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 to page 5, line 2, with the following paragraph:

On the other hand, proposals paying attention to the pore distribution of an oxide catalyst, have been made in the following patent documents. Unexamined Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Specification No. Sho 57-119837 discloses a catalyst for use in the oxidation of an olefin in a fixed-bed reactor, wherein the catalyst has an average pore ~~diameter~~ radius of 2,000 Å or more. Unexamined Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Specification No. Sho 58-113141 (corresponding to GB 2030885A) discloses a process for producing methacrolein. Claim 3 of this patent document describes that the cumulative surface area of pores having a diameter smaller than 100 Å is not more than 3 %, based on the surface area of the catalyst. International patent application publication No. WO03/039744 discloses a metal oxide catalyst for use in the commercial production of acrolein or acrylic acid by oxidation of propylene, wherein the physical structure (including the pore distribution) of the catalyst is specified in detail.